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ousting of Jews from Reich, Austria to be completed in 6 weeks, Washington reports

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Within four to six weeks there will be no more Jews left in Germany or Austria, except for some thousands of military age used as slave labor and those held in concentration camps, according to information received by the United States Government today.

With Austria virtually emptied of its pre-Anschluss Jewish population of 200,000 and with comparatively few of the pre-Hitler Reich Jewish population of 550,000 remaining, the seven-year process of ridding these territories of their Jews is nearing completion, comprising one of the greatest forced exoduses of modern times.

Germany's systematic liquidation of its Jewish population has been pushed to unprecedented lengths within the past few weeks, according to official reports reaching Washington.

Every night, night after night, sealed trains have been pouring across the border from occupied into unoccupied France, loaded with German Jews stripped of virtually all their possessions and near starvation. An almost equal number of sealed trains have been shuttled into Nazi-occupied Poland.

It was this endless dumping of refugees into unoccupied France that prompted the recent efforts of the Vichy Government to obtain aid from the United States in resettling refugees in the Western Hemisphere. And it was because the United States realized that to accept responsibility for the refugees would be to play into Germany's hands that the French appeals were rejected.

The situation in unoccupied France, already desperate when French Ambassador Gaston Henry-Haye headed a note to Secretary of State Cordell Hull a month ago, has grown more chaotic day by day, according to advices reaching Washington.

The Vichy Government is powerless to halt the stream of trains, packed with a miserable human cargo, across its borders. The trains are loaded and sealed in Germany, then shuttled across occupied France into the unoccupied zone. When the Vichy officials break the seal on their side of the border, they find them jammed with German Jews, who in the last few months have consisted almost entirely of old men and women and young children, those of emigration age having already left for the most part.

The French have persistently made efforts to send the trains back across the border into German-occupied territory, but the Nazis have refused to accept them.

(Continued on reverse side)

The refugees are being crowded into concentration camps in unoccupied France where conditions have been indescribably miserable for many months. The French Government has been allowing nine francs a day for the subsistence of each refugee, but because of food shortage it has been able to distribute only four francs' worth of food per capita in most of the camps, according to reports reaching here.

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Thousands of Vienna Jews Shipped to Poland

Stockholm, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews were recently transported from Vienna to Poland and their property was confiscated, the Goteborgs Posten reported from Berlin today. Several died of severe cold on the way, it was said.

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Reich Court Bars Holidays for Jews

ZURICH, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Jewish employees in Germany are not entitled to holidays, according to a ruling of a Cologne court, which is praised by the newspaper Koelnischer Zeitung as "a masterly verdict."

The paper says several Jews sued their employers in Cologne for refusing them the holidays to which they were legally entitled. The court rejected the claim, ruling holidays were only for members of the "Gemeinschaft der Schaffenden" (creative community), to which Jews, by their nature, could not belong.

BERLIN HITS WILLKIE AS 'JEWS' ERRAND BOY' FOR ACCEPTING VETERANS' AWARD

ZURICH, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The German radio today denounced Wendell L. Willkie for accepting an award of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, terming him "an errand boy for world Jewry." (The veterans' organization, at its midyear conference in Louisville on Sunday, voted Willkie its annual silver cup in recognition of his "outstanding example in leadership in promotion of Americanism and democracy.")

The German broadcast said Willkie received "a Jewish distinctive medal for ex-servicemen in the United States" in recognition of "his services to the English war party."

"Willkie's Jewish distinctive medal," the broadcast said, "proves clearly once again, first, that the democracy of the Anglo-Saxon world is identical with the aims of world Jewry; second, that Willkie, by supporting the aid-to-Britain bill, has been an errand boy for world Jewry."

The broadcast also quoted Dr. Stephen S. Wise of New York as demanding that Palestine be incorporated in the British Empire as a Jewish state and said this was "proof" that the aims of Britain and the Jews coincided.

TRANSYLVANIAN LEADER DEMANDS FULL RIGHTS FOR 'LOYAL JEWS'

BUDAPEST, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Loyal Transylvanian Jews must be granted "full and equal rights as citizens," declared Emanuel Marcovics, chief of the Transylvanian Party, addressing a conference at Nagyvarad.

He declared it would be unfair to apply restrictions of the Hungarian anti-Semitic law to Jews "who fought on our side during 22 years of oppression" and who were imprisoned

or otherwise persecuted for Hungarian nationalism during the Rumanian regime. He added, however, that "we alone, without any outside interference, must decide which elements of the Transylvanian Jewish population have been good Hungarians."

It is understood the Transylvanian Party will go on record as opposing application of anti-Semitic legislation to Jews who were members of the party in the past or who contributed time and money to the Hungarian revisionist cause. The party will not, however, defend Jews who belonged to Zionist groups or did not cooperate with the Hungarian revisionists during the Rumanian regime, it is understood.

CONGRESS GIVES \$40,000 TO BRITISH RELIEF GROUP FOR FIELD KITCHENS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The sum of \$40,000 for purchase of mobile field kitchens was presented at a luncheon to Essex House today by Dr. Stephen S. Wise to Frederick W. Gehle, chairman of the Fund-Raising Division of the British War Relief Society, representing the first contribution by the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee to Aid the Democracies.

Dr. Wise, who presided, said the organizations represented at the luncheon and Jewish communities throughout the United States were continuing efforts to secure these mobile field kitchens and hoped to present 200 of them to the British War Relief Society.

Gehle said: "It is a great encouragement to us to know that the Jewish Section of the Interfaith Committee to Aid the Democracies has so soon after its inauguration been able to make this splendid beginning in the fulfillment of the impressive program which it has undertaken. The Humanitarian traditions which have so long distinguished the Jewish community will, I know, be fully sustained by you and those who are associated with you in this work." The Rev. Maurice Perlzweig, head of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress, was another speaker.

FIRST COMMISSION GIVEN TO REFUGEE IN BRITISH PIONEER CORPS

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- For the first time a war commission has been granted to an anti-Nazi German refugee in the Auxiliary Pioneer Corps, it was announced today. The German, whose name was withheld, was made a second lieutenant. He had served in France and participated in the evacuation from Dunkirk.

Meanwhile, refugee women attending a conference of the International Women's Service Groups in London, appealed to the British Broadcasting Corporation to emphasize women's freedom in Britain in propaganda broadcasts to Germany. They suggested that refugee women broadcast their experiences and life in Britain.

A Home Office representative, Major Layton, is en route to Australia to investigate the situation regarding welfare of interned aliens and possibilities for their emigration, it was understood.

The Agudath Israel here has been informed that the Australian military authorities have sanctioned formation of an internees' rabbinical committee under the leadership of Rabbi Ehrentrau, formerly of the Adas Israel community in Munich, to minister to the religious needs of internees, particularly the 160 orthodox refugees in the Hayton camp.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE IN BROTHERHOOD WEEK

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Jewish community centers affiliated with the Jewish Welfare Board will observe Brotherhood Week, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, from Feb. 22 to 28. Appropriate sermons will be given at synagogue centers and Washington's Birthday programs will be arranged. The JWB has prepared for its constituent societies publications containing program material and suggestions for observance.

The 509 congregations affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have been requested to participate in local celebrations of Brotherhood Week. A letter from Robert P. Goldman, Union president and Rabbi Emil Leipziger, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, stated: "It is our earnest hope that the rabbis will devote their sermons during the week of Feb. 22 to 26 to the subject of national unity."

A tribute to Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes for his championship over the years of the cause of improved human relations will be offered by former Justice Joseph M. Proskauer at the luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club of New York in the Hotel McAlpin Ballroom on Wednesday. The luncheon serves as an advance observance in the New York area of Brotherhood Week.

ORT GAVE JOB TRAINING TO 12,000 IN 1940

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Extension of activities to refugee internment camps and generally increased service to European Jewry marked the 1940 program of ORT, 60-year-old world organization for rehabilitation and training, according to the year's report issued by George Backer, president of the American ORT Federation, today. The report lists more than 12,000 beneficiaries of the vocational training course in addition to many receiving various types of constructive aid. It asked support of the current \$1,250,000 ORT national campaign.

BRITAIN HONORS JEWISH ARP WARDEN FOR HEROISM

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) - Air Raid Precautions Warden Emmanuel Morris today was awarded the Order of the British Empire for extraordinary service during an air raid. He saved four women pinned under heavy beams in a communal shelter in Hackney, above which a five-story building had been demolished by a high explosive bomb. Morris worked in the rising water rushing from a broken main until the water reached his neck and then was dragged out by helpers.

LONDON ANNOUNCES SUPPLEMENTARY PALESTINE BUDGET

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Colonial Undersecretary George H. Hall announced in Commons today a supplementary civil estimate of £200,000 for defense of Palestine and Transjordan. He declared it was not proposed to call on the Palestine Government for any contribution for 1940, although Palestine was responsible for payments for defense.

55 JEWS FREED FROM INTERNMENT IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Fifty-three Jews have been released from Acre concentration camp. They include 45 arrested near Yavniel on Oct. 5, 1939, for illegal drilling of oil wells; four of Ben Shemen arrested in May, 1940 and six Zionist-Revisionists arrested at Mishmar Haemek on Dec. 20, 1939.